

Claims

1. A method of linking a service context to a terminal connection in a network controlling device of a data network, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) broadcasting a service notification from said data network as a result of a network-initiated creation of said service context;
 - b) setting up said terminal connection towards said network controlling device in response to a receipt of said service notification;
 - c) forwarding a service indication via said terminal connection to said data network;
 - d) receiving from a subscriber control element a confirmation of authorized service activation; and
 - e) establishing an association between said service context and said terminal connection based on a network response to said service indication.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said service indication is forwarded in a dedicated service indication message.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said service indication is forwarded in a message used for signaling a connection request or connection completion of said terminal connection.
4. A method according to claim 2, wherein said message is an RRC message.
5. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding an enhanced message from said network controlling device to a network node having initiated said service context creation, said enhanced message requesting confirmation of authorization of the service of said service context .
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said network response is an acknowledgement of said confirmation request.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said confirmation of authorized service activation is provided by said subscriber control element upon a joining phase for multicast activation

8. A method according to claim 5, wherein said enhanced message is a RANAP message.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said service indication is forwarded in a direct transfer message to a network node having initiated said service context creation.

10. A method according to claim 5, wherein said network node is an SGSN.

11. A method according to claim 7, wherein said subscriber control element is an SGSN, or a GGSN, or a network element controlled by a service provider.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said service provider is an external agent who is responsible of producing the multicast/broadcast services.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said terminal connection is an RRC connection.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said service context is a multicast or broadcast multimedia service context.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises adding said service indication into an active set of terminal connections and generating an association between said terminal connection and said service context.

16. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of releasing said terminal connection if said network response indicates that the service of said service context is not confirmed.

17. A terminal device for establishing a link between a service context of a service provided to said terminal device and a connection for providing said service from a data network to said terminal device, said terminal device setting up said connection and to forward a service indication via said connection in response to a service notification received from said data network.

18. A device according to claim 17, wherein said terminal device forwards said service indication in a message used for signaling a connection request or a connection completion.

19. A device according to claim 17, wherein said terminal device forwards said service indication in a dedicated message.

20. A device according to claim 19, wherein said message is an RRC message.

21. A device according to claim 17, wherein said terminal device forwards said service indication in a direct transfer message.

22. A device according to claim 17, wherein said terminal device is a mobile terminal.

23. A network controlling device for establishing a link between a service context created by a data network and a terminal connection, said network controlling device forwarding to said data network a service indication received via said terminal connection, and to establish said link on the basis of a network response received in response to said forwarded service indication.

24. A device according to claim 23, wherein said network controlling device extracts said service indication from a connection request or connection complete message or from a dedicated message.

25. A device according to claim 24, wherein said messages are RRC messages.

26. A device according to claim 23, wherein said network controlling device forwards said service indication in a direct transfer message received via said terminal connection.

27. A device according to claim 23, wherein said network controlling device forwards said service indication in a RANAP message.

28. A device according to claim 27, wherein said RANAP message is an Initial UE message.

29. A device according to claim 23, wherein said network controlling device adds said service indication into an active set of terminal connections and generates an association between said terminal connection and said service context.

30. A device according to claim 23, wherein said network controlling device is an RNC.

31. A system for establishing a link between a service context and a terminal connection, said system comprising a terminal device according to claim 14 and a network controlling device according to claim 20.

32. A method according to claim 3, wherein said message is an RRC message.

33. A method according to claim 6, wherein said enhanced message is a RANAP message.

34. A method according to claim 9, wherein said network node is an SGSN.